

*Historical Sketches of the Wabash Valley.* By J. WESLEY WHICKER, Attica, Indiana. Published by the author, 1917; pp. 159.

The author is an attorney, and a descendant of one of the early settlers of the community. The sketches represent the work of leisure hours in a field which has always had a fascination for the author. They were originally written for and published in the *Attica Ledger* as a means of rousing local interest in the centennial celebration of Indiana. The writer is well acquainted with the traditional history of the Middle Wabash Valley, and from these he has woven many delightful stories. While not always adhering to strictly documentary evidence, he never leaves the reader in doubt as to the source of his information. The sketches of Cicot, the scout, and Burnett, of Sheshepah, Topenebee, the Battle of Kickapoo, Ouiatenon, Harrison and the Battle of Tippecanoe are all most interesting. In fact there is not a dry sketch among the forty-six which constitute the volume. The biographies of Senator Hannegan, and Dr. Evans, the accounts of the building of the Wabash and Erie canal, the Wabash railroad, the founding and mutual rivalries of the towns of Maysville, Attica and Covington ending in the "Greek War" are all well told. There were also "communities"—the "Coal Creek Community", the "Fountain County Community" and the "Grand Prairie Harmonical Institute"—as well as a station on the "Underground", and a rendezvous of horsethieves. The author has done a public service to his county in thus putting these stories in form for preservation.

*History of the United States Political Industrial Social.* By CHARLES MANFRED THOMPSON, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Illinois. Benj. H. Sanborn & Co., Chicago, 1917. pp. xx—540.

Professor Thompson has written his text from the economic standpoint. All the larger phases of our history, colonization, revolution, western migration, civil war, and political reorganization are interpreted by economic motives. Admitting that this is the proper method of writing and teaching

history then one is compelled to say the text under consideration is excellent. The points stand out clear, the chapters are well-organized and the style is clear, though perhaps too difficult for any classes below high school. As an industrial history it excels any of the recent texts. Two other features are worthy of attention. It embodies the researches of the latest investigators, especially those who have been working in the field of western history. The west is given more nearly its due proportion in the development of the republic. As a consequence the colonial history is abbreviated. This is an improvement. Moreover those lines of development which have tended toward strength and unity have been stressed. The slavery question, so often over-emphasized has been given a more restricted and more proportional treatment. Altogether, if one is willing to subscribe to the economic interpretation of history, it is a very desirable text for high schools or even freshmen in colleges.

*Morgan's Raid in Indiana.* (Indiana Historical Society Publications. VII, No. 2.) By LOUIS B. EWBANK, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1917, pp. 50. Paper.

Judge Ewbank has confined himself strictly to his subject beginning his story with the crossing of Morgan into Indiana at Mauckport and ending it with Morgan's passing through Harrison on the East State line. The story is written from the newspapers—the New Albany Ledger, the Indianapolis Journal, the Louisville Journal and the Madison Courier—the Official Records of the Rebellion, Basil Duke's Morgan's Cavalry, Morgan and his Captors, Smith's History of Indiana, and a very sparing use of the best source, the Indiana Adjutant General's Official Reports. No attempt has been made to use the vast amount of evidence still in the minds of those yet living who saw Morgan and took part in his pursuit. The story is plainly and simply told. The Confederate raiders are not unduly criticised as has sometimes been done by Indiana writers. They were on a legitimate raid and conducted themselves generally as good soldiers. Judge Ewbanks has merited the thanks of our people for thus making the story available.